

A NEW SPECIES OF *SENECIO* (ASTERACEAE) FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Senecio sandersiana B.L. Turner, sp. nov., is described and illustrated from near El Salto, Durango, Mexico. It occurs in pine-oak woodlands at relatively high elevations (ca. 2720 m) and is said to be common locally on shady slopes and along ledges. The species is believed to be closely related to *S. tolucaannus* DC. but differs in leaf shape and features of the capitulescence.

RESUMEN

Se describe y se ilustra ***Senecio sandersiana*** B.L. Turner, sp. nov., de cerca de El Salto, Durango, México. Aparece en bosques de pino-encino en elevaciones relativamente altas (ca. 2720 m) y se dice que es común localmente en las laderas umbrías y a lo largo de cornisas. Se cree que la especie está emparentada con *S. tolucaannus* DC. pero difiere en la forma de la hoja y características de la capitulescencia.

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the follow novelty:

Senecio sandersiana B.L. Turner, sp. nov. (**Fig. 1**). TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. El Salto, "rim of plateau W of La Ciudad, 3.1 km NW of Hwy 40 ... off Neveros rd. upper Arroyo Tascanto watershed," 2720 m, 19 Apr 1999, A.C. Sanders et al. 22680 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; ISOTYPE: UCR).

Similis *S. tolucaanno* DC. sed laminas foliorum definite cordatis, petiolis angustioribus (2-4 mm vice 3-10 mm), et pedunculis elongatis cum solum 1-2(-3) capitulis.

Perennial subscapose *herbs* to 60 cm high. *Leaves* glabrous or nearly so, 15-25 cm long, 3.0-8.5 cm wide, forming a persistent basal rosette; petioles of well-developed leaves alate, mostly 10-15 cm long, 2-4 mm wide; blades broadly ovate to cordate, the margins decidedly serrulate. *Heads* 1-3 at the apices of elongate nearly naked scapes (bearing 2-4 much-reduced, bract-like leaves). *Involucres* calyculate, the calyculae grading into the involucre bracts; inner bracts ca. 21 in a single series, ca. 8 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, sparsely glandular-pubescent along the margins, otherwise glabrous. *Receptacle* plane to concave, epaleate, glabrous, ca. 4 mm across. *Ray florets* 11-13, sterile; corollas yellow, glabrous; tubes ca. 6 mm long; ligules 4-6 nervate, 6-8 mm long, 2-3 mm wide. *Disk florets* 40-60, fertile; corollas yellow, glabrous, ca. 7 mm long, the tube ca. as long as the cylindrical throat, the lobes 5, deltoid, ca. 0.5 mm long. *Style branches* linear, truncate, minutely hispidulous apically. *Achenes* (immature) ca. 2.5 mm long, glabrous; pappus of numerous white bristles somewhat longer than the disk corollas.

This taxon is closely related to the widespread species, *S. tolucaannus* of the

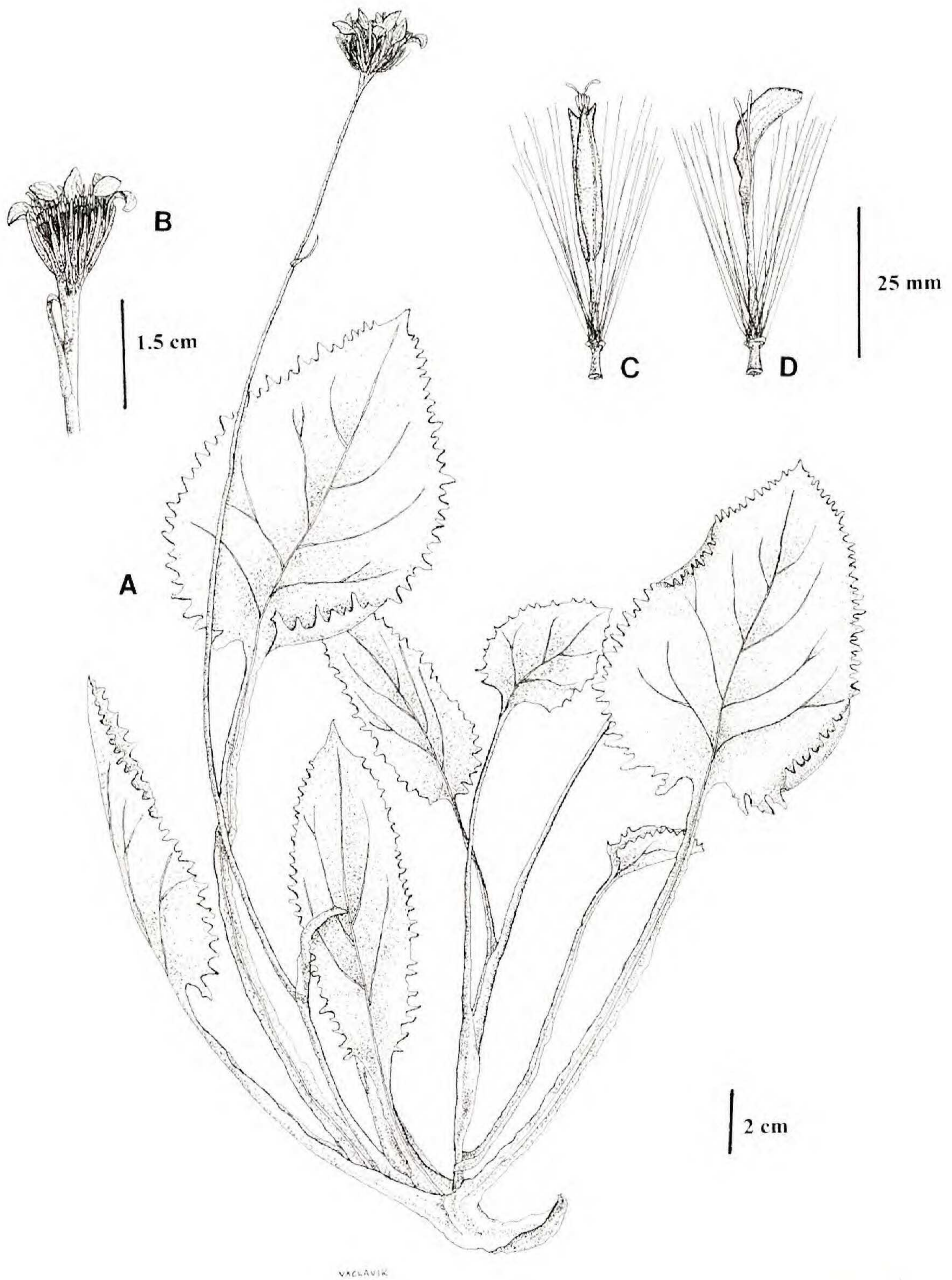


FIG. 1. *Senecio sandersiana*, from holotype.

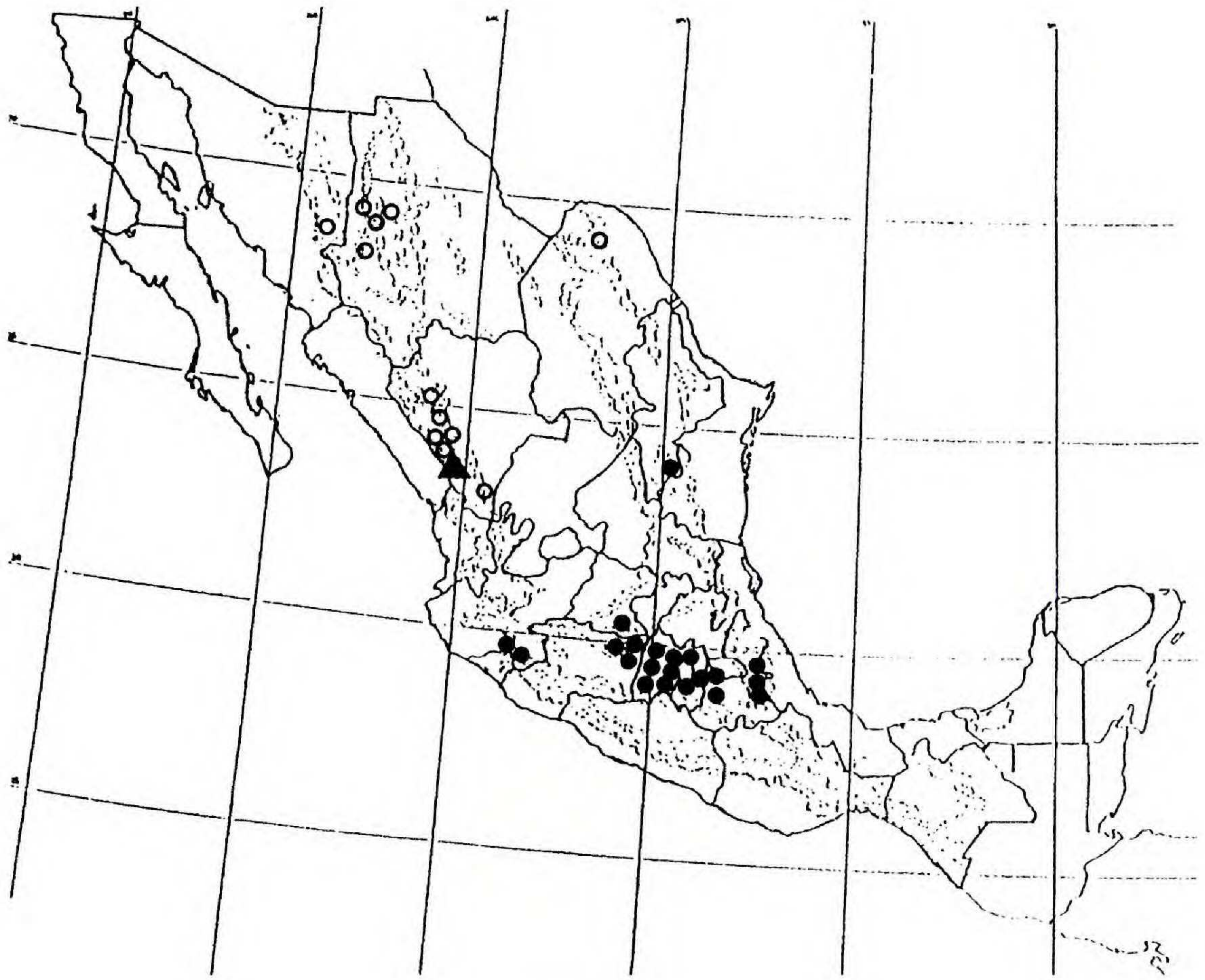


FIG. 2. Distribution in Mexico of *Senecio tolucaanus* (closed circles), *S. wootonii* (open circles), and *S. sandersiana* (triangle).

Sec. Lugentes of *Senecio*. It might also be compared with *S. wootonii* Greene of the southwestern U.S.A. and closely adjacent northwestern Mexico. *Senecio sandersiana* differs from both in having fewer heads to a capitulescence and markedly cordate leaf blades. The distribution of these several taxa in Mexico is shown in Fig. 2.

Etymology.—The species is named for its primary collector, A.C. Sanders, Curator at UCR, an intrepid field worker. When informed of its possible novel status, he remarked via email:

“I knew that 22680 was something good when I found it and so I collected plenty. I’d never seen anything like it and was just very interested in the plant as an attractive object. This was the *Senecio* I was most interested in hearing about....I have 5 more sheets. It was very common where I found it: I had to walk through beds of it on the shaded slopes to find other things.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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